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In this issue :

Our Uncle Ho

(His Native Land and Childhood)

A SPLENDID DISPLAY OF OUR UNDYING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOCIALIST CAMP

THE strengthening of the fraternal friendship between our country and the socialist camp, the conerstone of the DRVN foreign policy has just found a vivid expression in the visit recently paid by the Delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government successively to the People's Republic of China, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union. The importance of the event was shown by the fact that the Delegation was headed by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and by deputy leader Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi, both members of the Political Bureau of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

The most heartfelt welcome given to the Delegation, the praise bestowed on our victorious resistance to US aggression and the moving tributes reiterated in memory of ourgreat national leader, President Ho Chi Minh, by the leaders and peoples of the three countries concerned, deeply moved millions of Vietnamese who closely followed the visit of their worthy representatives entrusted with the task of bringing to the brother peoples tokens of the friendship which they never ceased to cultivate.

IN the **People's Republic of China** where the Delegation attended the 20th anniversary of the founding of that great republic, Premier Pham Van Dong hailed the splendid achievements recorded by the Chinese people in the last two decades and expressed the hearty and profound gratitude of the Vietnamese people towards Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese Communist Party and people, for their unstinted support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression and to the socialist construction in North Viet Nam.

All the Vietnamese people share the sentiments expressed by Premier Pham Van Dong towards the great Chinese people. They see in the triumph of the Chinese revolution and the establishment of the People's Republic of China the most important achievement of world revolution after the Great October Revolution. They also see in them a very powerful encouragement to the revolutionary movement in all countries, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Vietnamese, in the North and in the South, admiringly follow the wonderful transformation of China— formerly a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country—into a great socialist power now, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, with a modern industry, agriculture, and national defence and an advanced culture and science.

"The 700 million Chinese people are a powerful mainstay, and the immense Chinese territory is a dependable rear for the Vietnamese people", these noble words uttered by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and repeated by Premier Chu En-lai to his Vietnameee guests, stir the hearts of all Vietnamese patriots. And the Chinese Premier reiterated his support for the just position of the Vietnamese people in their struggle against US aggression, which had just been reaffirmed in the Sept. 21, 1969 statement of the DRVN Government and the Sept. 20, 1969 statement of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

IN the **German Democratic Republic** which was also commemorating its 20th founding anniversary, Premier Pham Van Dong " greeted the magnificent achievements recorded by Marxism-Leninism on the native land of the great leaders Marx and Engels as the result of heroic efforts and creative work of the faithful and glorious successors to Marx, Engels and Lenin, the immortal masters of the working class and oppressed peoples in the world." He said: "The legitimate pride taken by the GDR people in their great accomplishments is also felt by the Vietnamese people and other peoples of socialist countries, of the peace forces and progressives in West Germany and of all peace-loving peoples in the world."

Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the CC of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and President of the State Council of the GDR, sincerely expressed the joy of all GDR citizens to welcome to this western outpost of the socialist camp comrades-in-arms coming from the other South-eastern outpost. He thanked the DRVN Government and people for the political and moral support given to the GDR in its struggle for the peace and security of the GDR and maintenance of security in Europe. Renewing his support to Viet Nam's fight against US aggression, he pointed out: "The withdrawal from South Viet Nam of all aggressive troops of the US and its satellites is the only possible way to reestablish peace in Viet Nam."

IN the **Soviet Union**, the Delegation leader reaffirmed in the name of all Vietnamese, our affection for the "land of the Great October Revolution which has ushered in a fundamentally new era in the history of mankind and blazed to all people the trail to their liberation." He paid stirring tributes to the great Lenin, "the able leader and immortal master whose thinking shines more brightly than ever in our era and enlightens the struggle and victories of the working class and oppressed peoples throughout the world". He "warmly greeted the brilliant successes achieved by the heroic Soviet people, the glorious continuator of Lenin's work under the leadership of the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union in the establishment of the material and technical basis of communism and in the defence of world peace." To conclude, he emphasized the resolve of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government as well as the entire Vietnamese people to carry out President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions, to strengthen the solidarity and friendship with the brother Soviet Union, to do their best

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President Ho Chi Minh begins a visit to the frontline (First Resistance War)

General VO NGUYEN GIAP Interviewed by Cuban Paper Special Correspondent

- Why Has the People's War Won in Viet Nam?
- On the Judicious Application of Marxism Leninism to the Concrete Conditions of Viet Nam.
- The Role of Women in the Vietnamese People's Resistance.

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A Splendid Display of Our Undying Friendship with the Socialist Camp

(*Continued from page 1*)

to cement the relations between the DRVN and the Soviet Union, between the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the CPSU and make them everlasting."

In a reply, A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, gave to his Vietnamese guests the assurances of the "deep and sincere affection of all the Soviet people: workers, collective farmers, intellectuals." "The Soviet people," he said, "are fully aware of their internationalist duty towards Viet Nam, a duty they are now discharging." The Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers did not fail to score with utmost severity the US imperialists's criminal war against Viet Nam. He said:

"The military situation in South Viet Nam and the Paris talks have shown that the US policy makers always pin their hopes on the use of force to crush the South Viet Nam people and deny them the right to self-determination. In the United States, peace declarations are made, solutions to the Viet Nam problem are put forth but a program to "Vietnamize" the war is also under way, which means continuation of the war, and is in substance a trick to prolong the existence of the puppet régime abhorred by the South Viet Nam people."

AGREEMENTS signed by the DRVN with China and the Soviet Union, on economic and military aid in 1970, and with the GDR on economic and technical co-operation and aid, during the visit of our Party and Government Delegation (or a few days earlier as in the case with China), are further palpable proofs of the solidarity of the brother countries with our national cause: resistance to US aggression and socialist construction in North Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people are alive to the fact that the socialist countries and communist and workers' parties are in the forefront of the forces sympathizing with their just struggle. The friendship visits paid by our Party and Government Delegation to the three abovementioned countries conform to our foreign policy judiciously laid down by our much mourned—for President Ho Chi Minh. They completely tally with the fundamental interests of our people, of these brother peoples and of the fraternal peoples in the socialist camp as well as of all peoples fighting for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

South Viet Nam Republic Delegations Tour Socialist Countries

TWO South Viet Nam delegations have recently visited a number of socialist countries:

— The Delegation of the NFL and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR, led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the NFL and President of the Advisory Council to the PRG, visited the People's Republic of China on the occasion of her 20th founding anniversary.

— The Delegation of the PRG of the SVNR, headed by Tran Buu Kiem, member of the CC of the NFL, Minister to the PRG presidency, visited the GDR, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Bulgarian People's Republic.

ERRATUM

In *Viet Nam Courier* No 230 (Oct. 20, 1969), page 1, column 1, paragraph 5, line 6 should read:

"'*protective reaction*', but the change is only in appearance..."

39th Plenary Session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Oct. 23, 1969)

Mr. Xuan Thuy: All World Progressives Express Warmest Sympathy for and Support to the American Campaign for an Immediate End of US Aggression

AT the 39th session of the Paris Conference, Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN delegation, produced cogent proofs of the Nixon administration's obdurate intention to prolong its aggressive war in Viet Nam and the occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops. He also denounced the US for stepping up its aggressive war in Laos. In the recent months, he said, the US has increased its bombings in Laos including those by B-52s, and instigated the Laotian rightist army's encroaching attacks on liberated areas such as the Plain of Jars, Central and Lower Laos. At present, there are 12,000 US military advisors and personnel and troops in Laos including 1,200 "Green Berets", not counting 5,000 Thailand troops.

He pointed to the fact that Nixon dared not make public a time-table for withdrawal of US troops for fear of disclosing his scheme to drag out his aggressive war in Viet Nam. He said:

"If the Nixon administration withdraws promptly and totally all US troops from South Viet Nam as demanded by the Vietnamese and American peoples, the war will end because the Vietnamese people will cease fighting the US troops and in addition, the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people will be respected, because the presence of the US expeditionary troops now is the only obstacle preventing the South Vietnamese people from deciding themselves their own affairs."

The DRVN envoy also made clear that the withdrawal of US troops was not incompatible with the honour of the United States, because the honour of the United States was to end its aggressive war and withdraw promptly and totally US troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, rather than maintain the rotten Saigon administration and neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

The North Vietnamese chief negotiator castigated a number of people in the Nixon and Saigon administrations for seeking to belittle the import and significance of October 15 in the United States and stall the people's movement for the ending of its aggressive war in Viet Nam by the US government. Even the *Washington Post* flayed President Nixon's contemptuous attitude towards demonstrators in the United States as "both insolent and unpolitic."

Mr Xuan Thuy said: "For the sake of the genuine interests and honour of the US, for their own vital interests, for the freedom of other peoples, and for world peace, those Americans who want and militate for a prompt end to the war in Viet Nam, and a total, immediate repatriation of US troops will not draw back because of demagogy or menace, but will more and more broaden their ranks and bravely go foward. All progressive mankind expresses the warmest sympathy and unstinted support to them."

After stressing that the Paris Conference on Viet Nam had held 39 sessions without being able to solve any problem, he declared:

"We have come to Paris to seek a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue, but it must not be the kind of peace under US imperialism. The Vietnamese people will not be fooled by any deception, nor cowed by any threat. If the US continues its present policy, there is no other alternative for the Vietnamese people than struggle resolutely for genuine peace in real independence in Vet Nam."

US Air Pirates Would Have Deserved Another Fate

NGUYEN HUU DIEN

THE war of destruction unleashed by the US imperialists against the DRVN is a war crime against peace, an unheard-of crime against mankind, a flagrant crime of genocide. And the American pilots who took part in it waged it wilfully and knowingly. While bombing our territory, they were not unaware that there had never been any declaration of war. The constitutional dispositions of the US gave them the right to refuse to carry out such raids. They were neither unaware that the destructive range of their weapons, and that the chemical war, CBUs and napalm had been banned. They doubtlessly were well aware of all that. Their acts were premeditated and planned. To wipe out a village, they would first drop explosive bombs on the centre to drive people out and rain pellet bombs on them. At the rhythm of the bombs released, they would expect decorations, promotion, and money, they would dream of toasts, congratulations from their President, generals and admirals and press stories with their portraits in boxes. They didn't care a bit about razed towns, blown up bridges, burnt villages, flattened crowded schools. They didn't care a bit about hundreds of kids mown down with their exercise books still open, innocent little hands holding their pens, babies seared by napalm in their cradles. After their crimes, they quietly went to have a glass of beer or a boisterous game of cards, without even one thought

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Président Ho Chi Minh talking to Comrade Ho Dou, of the M'nong ethnic minority, a guerilla of Darlac province (Western High Plateaux, South Viet Nam), member of the South Viet Nam Delegation to the International Conference of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People Against US Imperialist Aggression, for the Defence of Peace, held in Hanoi, end of November 1964.

FELLOW-CITIZENS of the Kinh majority people or of the Tho, Muong or Man, Djarai or Ede, Sedan or Banar and other minorities, are all Viet Nam's children, all are blood brothers and sisters. Alive or dead, in weal or woe, we stand close to one another.

Whether we have enough to eat or whether we are in want, we must help one another.

Formerly we were separated from each other, firstly because we lacked means of communication, secondly because there were people who sowed discord and division among us.

Today Viet Nam is our common country. In the National Assembly there are deputies of all nationalities.

In the Government there is a Department for National Minorities, which is in charge of all affairs concerning them.

Our country and Government are common to all of us. Hence all nationalities must unite closely in order to defend our Fatherland and support our Government.

We must love, respect and help each other in order to achieve our common happiness and that of our children.

Rivers can run dry, mountains can wear flat, but our solidarity will never weaken. We are determined to bend our energies on maintaining our freedom and independence.

(Excerpts from President HO CHI MINH's Address to the Congress of Southern National Minorities held in Pleiku, now a province of South Viet Nam, in April 1946.)

National Minorities in North Viet Nam

ON the present territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam live 37 national minorities, comprising 2,560,000 people—14.8 per cent of the total population.

Under the colonial regime, they were kept in atrocious living conditions, overburdened with taxes, ranging from taxes on animals to poll-tax. In many regions the peasants were bound to feudal seigneurs by bonds of serfdom.

The labouring sections of the population suffered from food shortage every year for a period of from three to six months, or even longer, during which the people lived on wild vegetables and tubers.

Among the innumerable diseases which decimated these minorities, endemic malaria wrought the worst ravage. Cholera and smallpox epidemics mowed down whole villages. Tuberculosis and leprosy were rampant. Syphilis rendered sterile more than one ethnic group. Broncho-pneumonia and intestinal diseases caused catastrophic infant mortality. Alcoholism and addiction to opium contributed to the biological degeneration of numerous tribes.

Illiteracy was the lot of almost all the mountain people. Their languages, held in disdain, remained rudimentary, even primitive, like their way of life.

Under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party—formerly the Indo-Chinese Communist Party—with its policy of "uniting all nationalities on the basis of equality and mutual assistance with a view to achieving together independence, freedom and happiness", the national minorities contributed a decisive part to the triumph of the 1945 August Revolution and then the war of Resistance against the French colonialists (1946-1954).

With the liberation of North Viet Nam in 1954, hand in hand with the majority people, the national minorities embarked upon a new stage of their history.

The Tay Bac (Northwest) Autonomous Region founded on May 7, 1955 embraces the three provinces of Son La, Lai Chau and Nghia Lo where live 25 different ethnic groups.

The Viet Bac Autonomous Region which came into being on September 19, 1956 comprises Bac Thai, Lang Son, Cao Bang, Tuyen Quang and Ha Giang provinces where live 14 different ethnic groups.

In these autonomous regions, almost all key positions are held by the local people, and executive cadres from the minorities keep increasing. Such cadres already make up the majority in State and Party organs, up to 70 — 80 per cent in some province. Of the 455 deputies to the National Assembly 64 come from the minority peoples. Some cabinet ministers, members of the Party Central Committee and a general of the people's Army are of minority origin.

Undoubtedly, all these fundamental changes have largely contributed to raising the political status of the national minorities.

But, if genuine equality among the nationalities is to be achieved, the minority peoples should overcome their age-old economic, cultural and social backwardness. Thus the tasks concerning the minorities in the period of transition to socialism, consist in "helping the uplands catch up with the lowlands, the border regions with the central regions, the minority peoples with the Kinh (majority) people, and urging all the nationalities to further develop their revolutionary spirit and great capacities and to unite closely so as to advance toward socialism". (Resolution of the Third National Congress of the Viet Nam Workers' Party — 1960).

Immense efforts have been made for the economic development of the mountain areas where agricultural production in particular has seen an unprecedented growth. Famine, that age-old scourge has been wiped out. The utter misery in which the minority lived is now a thing of the past. Following the democratic regime which eradicated the last vestiges of feudalism in political and economic life, the movement of agricultural co-operativisation has established new production relations. The creation of State-run agricultural and forest farms and the co-operation of people coming from the lowlands have worked as a catalyst in the economic transformation of the mountain regions. The first industrial bases have appeared, and with them a local working class born of different national and ethnic minorities, a nucleus for the new régime. State trade provides effectively for the growing needs of the population, selling consumer goods and buying forest and local products. The network of national, regional and local communication lines is being extended at an unprecedented tempo.

From an autarkic economy under the feudal and colonial regimes, which bore strong marks of a natural economy, the people of the highlands have reached the initial stage of a mercantile economy of a socialist character with collectivized agriculture and handicrafts and a nascent state-run industry.

Cultural and social transformations have been no less important. Illiteracy had been wiped out by 1961 in the lower mountain areas where live a great major part of the mountain population. General education schools, complementary education classes for adults, and vocational schools are multiplying rapidly. The languages of the minorities have been given the place of honour. The most important minority groups which form 85 per cent of the total minority population, now have their own scripts. Cadres have been trained at an accelerated rate to meet the needs of construction.

Malaria, one of the most terrible scourges for the highlanders, had in the main been curbed by 1965 after 8 years of relentless struggle. Small-pox, cholera, typhoid fever, typhus and other epidemics have been jugulated. Social diseases such as syphilis have disappeared. Each village has its own maternity home and infirmary, each district a hospital and several dispensaries, and each province a modern polyclinic. Middle-level physicians are operating at village level, and even the remotest hamlets have been provided with trained health workers. With the progress made in the medical and sanitation field, superstitions have receded considerably. Almost all witch-doctors, charlatans and sorcerers, who pullulated under the former regime, have renounced their practices, which they themselves now regard as a shame.

People's power has done everything it can to restore and develop the spiritual and moral values of the minorities. National cultures have been revived thanks to the intense activities of cultural workers, professional and non-professional. Song and dance ensembles have mushroomed. Several arts schools for national minorities have been opened. Newspapers and books have been published in minority languages notably in Tay Nung in the Viet Bac Autonomous Region, and in Thai and Meo in the Northwest Autonomous Region. Two radio stations broadcasting in 4 minority languages namely Tay-Nung, Thai, Meo and Zao are serving those autonomous regions. Each provincial capital and district town possesses its own public address system. For the first time in history, besides traditional poetry, prose writing is undertaken by many national minorities. An artistic intelligentsia is in the making, composed of writers, playwrights, script-writers, musicians, choreographers, painters, cinema actors, etc. Together with the technical and scientific intelligentsia, they are contributing to renovating the age-old life of the minority peoples.

General VO NGUYEN GIAP Interviewed by Cuban Paper Special Correspondent

IN July last, in Hanoi, General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Commander-in-Chief of the Viet Nam People's Army, granted Cuban journalist Marta Rojas an interview, later published in Granma, *official organ of the Cuban Communist Party.*

We give below the essential part of the answers given by the victor of Dien Bien Phu on several topics which we think may interest many of our readers. — Editor.

QUESTION 1

IN your view, what is the main basis for the success of the people's war, *according to the experience gained by Viet Nam?*

ANSWER

THE main bases are:

1. The entire people's identity of mind; they unite in struggle, are resolved to fight and defeat the North American aggressors, and would die rather than be slaves.

2. A sound political and military line.

QUESTION 2

ACCORDING to the experience of Viet Nam, is it correct to say that the invincibility of the people's war derives essentially from the unity of the people? Or are there other factors?

ANSWER

YES, it is. The invincibility of the people's war essentially springs from the militant unity of the people. This is the decisive factor. However, there are also other determining factors:

— A judicious political and military line;

— People's armed forces which serve as the mainstay of people's war;

— Sympathy, support, and aid from the fraternal socialist countries and the world peoples.

Of these factors, **the most decisive one is the correct political and military line of the Vanguard Party.** Only thanks to this unerring line can one mobilize the people, organize them, and lead them in the struggle against the enemy; and can one rally all patriotic forces into a strong and broadly-based national united front against the common enemy. According to the experience gained by Viet Nam, a broad national united front based on the worker-peasant alliance is very important. Only thanks to a correct line can we arm the entire people and carry into effect the watchword: "Every citizen to be a valiant fighter" and can we build people's armed forces ready to fight to the last drop of their blood, resolved to fight until victory, and familiar with the best way to defeat the enemy. In Viet Nam, we say: to get **the better of the enemy, one must be courageous and intelligent, be resolved to fight and fight well.**

Only thanks to a correct line can we strengthen the militant solidarity between the people of Viet Nam and those of the fraternal socialist countries, enlist maximum support from the fraternal socialist countries and maximum sympathy and support from the world's progressives, including the American people, and make an important contribution to the formation and strengthening of the world peoples' front against American imperialism. We set great store by the reinforcement of international solidarity and that of the world peoples' front against North American imperialism.

The Vietnamese people's successes over the North American imperialists can be ascribed to their resolve to fight and defeat them, to their courage and at the same time to the sympathy and help of the world peoples, including the valuable aid of the Cuban people.

Those achievements are primarily due to the **correct and creative leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, headed by Comrade Ho Chi Minh.** During your visit to Viet Nam, you have seen people's great confidence in the Party's leadership. This is the most important, most decisive factor of victory.

A veteran of the first resistance war passing on his experiences on guerilla warfare to youngsters in a village of Vinh Linh area.

QUESTION 3

HOW can one correctly apply the Marxist-Leninist line to the people's war? *In practice, there is a classical instance, Viet Nam; but what is in your view* the essential basis for victory?

ANSWER

OUR Party's line is the concentrated expression of the effective and imaginative application of Marxism-Leninism to the reality of revolution and revolutionary war in Viet Nam.

We all regard Marxism-Leninism as a universal truth, the compass pointing the way for the revolution to attain successes and the transformation of the world. We all think it indispensable to firmly grasp this universal truth, Marxism-Leninism. Mastery of Marxist-Leninist principles cannot be separated from their application to the concrete revolutionary conditions of each country. Each country has its own characteristics. For instance: **Viet Nam, in her thousands-of-years-old history, has a very heroic tradition of resistance against foreign aggression.** Generally speaking, Viet Nam has had to face aggressors many times stronger than her. In the 13th century, the Mongols who swept from east to west were beaten back at the gate of our capital Thang Long *. Over the past decades, we have confronted three imperialisms: French imperialism, a strong European one; Japanese fascism, a strong Asian imperialism; and now American imperialism, the strongest of them all. So one characteristic is: **At every turn we have successfully confronted enemies several times stronger than ourselves.**

The Vietnamese people have a tradition of dauntlessness; they are deeply attached to peace, but this must be peace in independence and freedom. *"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom,"* such is a thought pervading the mind of every Vietnamese. Such people are determined to fight to a finish against all enemies. Because of our love for independence and freedom, we will never infringe on another country's independence and freedom. **Our struggle is a just one, a struggle for the defence of our fatherland, for national liberation.** That is another characteristic.

In terms of area, **Viet Nam is not very extensive and in terms of population, she is not very numerous** and economically she is not much developed. On that score you and we were in a position to perfectly understand each other. So our material means are limited. But love for independence and freedom cannot be measured by extensiveness in area. A will fired by heroism goes beyond geographic factors. However, in our struggle, we must take into account the fact that our population figures do not run into several hundred million. That too is a characteristic. Our forefathers themselves always bore that in mind.

The international position of Viet Nam is another characteristic. For instance: In the 13th century, we fought against the Mongol invasions single-handedly, with no help from the outside. Now, in the 20th century, the situation is different: there is a socialist camp; there is a strong national liberation movement; the Soviet Union is there, China is there; close to the USA itself, there is socialist Cuba. The international juncture has changed, the times are not the same.

I have just mentioned a few characteristics in order to make it clear that our **Party has a firm grasp of the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism and at the same time makes a scientific appraisal of the characteristics of Vietnam, of those of the enemy, of our forces, of our society, of the international situation, etc.,** and that basis sets forth a correct and creative line so as to lead the revolution to victory.

We may say that it is precisely because we have put forward a correct and creative line, correctly set forth our revolutionary tasks, adopted adequate revolutionary methods and so on, that we have got the better of all enemies. In our conduct of the war, we constantly have a firm grasp of the laws of war and go by them in directing it.

Our Party's line at present is to unite the entire people to resist North American aggression and save the country; we consider the task of defeating the American aggressors as the sacred task of the nation, for only by defeating the aggressors can we defend the North and build socialism there, complete the democratic national revolution in the whole country and progress towards peaceful national reunification. You know this very well: Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese are one nation. (I have just read a book by a former adviser of John Kennedy; its author too has to recognize that Viet Nam is one country.)

Our Party has mapped out **the line of the people's war.** Its most essential tenet is: **Let the entire country fight the enemy, with the people's armed forces as the core.** Our Party has pointed out the methods of struggle: to combine military struggle with political struggle; to uphold the spirit of self-reliance, to rely essentially on our own forces, at the same time to set great store by the solidarity and the generous help of the socialist countries and the support of the world people.

In the military field, it has worked out the **appropriate strategy and tactics** to outwit the enemy. Vietnamese strategic thought is constantly maintaining the **initiative,** constantly acting on the **offensive,** constantly **attacking the enemy from a position of strength, using few troops to beat many, using a small force to outgeneral a big one, successfully matching qualitatively and quantitatively inferior weapons against the enemy's modern ones.** We shoot down North American aircraft not only with missiles and fighter planes but also with anti-aircraft guns of various calibres, machineguns and rifles. In the South, assault groups often destroy scores of enemy planes and helicopters on the ground. This too is an instance of the application of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of Viet Nam.

QUESTION 4

PLEASE give us a theoretical interpretation of the "Three Prongs" strategy used by the NFL in South Viet Nam. Is it true that this strategy has been applied in the Vietnamese people's previous wars of resistance against foreign aggression?

ANSWER

YOUR question is one about the methods of the struggle and the forms of struggle. This is a very important problem. Lenin said in substance: Once the political task of the revolution has been set, the problem of determining the adequate form of struggle is very important. In the South, under the leadership of the NFL, our 14 million fellow-countrymen have closely combined armed struggle with political struggle—more recently, also with diplomatic struggle. In action, they combine the "three prongs": military offensive, political offensive, and political work among enemy troops.

In this respect, one may say that the NFL has creatively applied the Vietnamese people's experience in revolutionary struggle over several decades of history, and even the experience gained by the nation over thousands of years.

Ever since our Party came into being, the Vietnamese people have gone through a fairly long period of political struggle against the imperialists: illegal, semi-legal and legal struggle, the first-named being the essential form. Then they engaged in armed struggle, successfully carried out the (1945) August General Insurrection, and set up the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This general insurrection involved both political and armed forces, the political forces of the masses being particularly powerful. Followed a protracted resistance against the French imperialists, essentially with arms in hands, but also in the political field. At present we are waging a war of resistance to Yankee aggression, for national salvation, against the neo-colonialism of the north American imperialists. The latter have resorted to an extremely ferocious weaponry and utterly perfidious political schemes. The Vietnamese people's present resistance is the fiercest and has entered a crucial phase. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam are using all forms of struggle to defeat the enemy. Most important is armed struggle; political struggle is also very important; recently diplomatic struggle has also been waged. So all forms of struggle are used against the enemy to drive him into the defensive and failure in all respects. The use of multifarious forms of struggle is also an expression of the thought of revolutionary offensive; it brings into full play the strength of the people's war in all fields, thereby winning great successes.

Recently Comrade Fidel Castro has compared the Vietnamese people's struggle to a splendid symphony: on the battlefield, they intensified their armed struggle; at the conference table, they put forward the ten points; then the Provisional Revolutionary Government came into being. This is a fighting symphony.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, barely a few days after its formation, was recognized by scores of countries. Our Cuban comrades had given the NFL representative in Havana ambassadorial status and were among the first countries to grant recognition to the PRG; one may say that they had recognized it even before its coming into existence. This has been a great encouragement to us.

QUESTION 5

WHAT is the role played by Vietnamese women *in the successfull people's war for liberation in the South and resistance in the North during the four years of criminal aggression by the North American imperialists against the DRVN?*

ANSWER

OUR women are very heroic; our people in general are very heroic.

In our history, the women occupy a very worthy position. Nearly 2,000 years ago, two women were the first national heroes to raise the banner of independence: the Trung sisters. Since the triumph of the (1945) August Revolution, Vietnamese women have been playing an ever greater role. They have progressed in many fields and played an important role in both the building of socialism and the war of resistance. They have been credited with **"heroism, dauntlessness, faithfulness and resilience,"** to shoulder all responsibilities. This is the praise bestowed on the women by our Party and the NFL. In the South, women are present in all front lines. They engage in production under enemy bombs and shells, participate in guerilla actions, enlist in the liberation army. One should mention in particular assault groups wholly made up of women waging political struggle: the "long-haired army", which fights fiercely the enemy, surges forward in spite of their guns and bayonets, strikes them with panic. Those women are truly heroic!

South Viet Nam: a unit of the "long-haired army" in action.

Temple dedicated to Lady Trieu, heroine of independence in the 3rd century.

In the North, women actively participate in the building of socialism: they work in co-operatives, factories, help the troops, join militia units; a number of them have joined the army. Our women combatants fight and work very well. Many have shot down North American aircraft. They play an important role in education, health and other works. In all fields of activity, women hold important posts. We are proud of our women; they are in no way inferior to the men.

Let me say this in addition:

The Vietnamese people have a tradition of indomitable struggle against foreign aggression, and have never given way to any enemy. At present more than ever, they are carrying out an extremely glorious historical task, a **task they must fulfil for the sake of** both their nation and the world people's.

Why have the North American imperialists introduced more than half a million troops for aggression against Viet Nam? With the puppet and satellite troops, they have mustered more than a million troops. The aim of the North American imperialists is to commit aggression against South Viet Nam, but it is clear that they also hatch other schemes.

Johnson once admitted that the Viet Nam war was a life-and-death test and assumed as great an importance as any previous war waged by the USA. Why should the problem take on such an importance?

Precisely because Viet Nam is standing in the forefront of the national liberation movement, the American imperialists nurture the hope that, by winning in Viet Nam, they would be able to stamp out the peoples' liberation movement. Moreover, Viet Nam is standing in the front line of the socialist camp against imperialism. It is the North American imperialists' hope that, by winning in Viet Nam, they would deal a hard blow at the socialist camp. That is why they have shown the greatest truculence and cruelty, in spite of the heavy price they have had to pay in men and resources. They never expected that the Vietnamese people would be the victor in that life-and-death test which had taken on such a great importance, and that the American imperialists would suffer shameful defeat.

As for us Vietnamese, we are well aware that to fight against the North American aggressors is to fulfil our duty both to the nation and to the world peoples. The countries of the socialist camp have been giving us wholehearted help. Our Cuban comrades are geographically far away, but Comrade Fidel has said that they are ready to shed their blood for the sake of Viet Nam. We are greatly moved by these words and our sense of responsibility has become all the clearer. Never has the Vietnamese revolution benefited from such sympathy and

(Continued page 7)

* *Thang long is Hanoi's name from the 11th to the 18th centuries* —Ed.

OVER ONE MILLION JAPANESE PEOPLE JOIN ANTI-US IMPERIALISM DEMONSTRATIONS

ON October 21, 1969, the fourth "International Anti-War Day" of the Japanese people, one million Japanese are estimated to have taken part in demonstrations throughout the country for an immediate halt to the US aggressive war in Viet Nam, abrogation of the "United States-Japan Mutual Security Treaty" and unconditional return of the American-occupied Okinawa base, foreign reports said.

Sources said the October 21 actions this year by far exceeded any similar campaign in previous years.

In response to the appeal of the Japanese Communist Party, the Japanese Socialist Party and 238 progressive organizations including 105 trade unions, rallies, marches and strikes were staged in 600 places throughout the country despite bad weather and the deployment of a 70,000-strong police force of the Sato administration.

In Tokyo, some 100,000 people gathered at Yoyogi Park for an anti-war day rally. The participants passed a resolution protesting against the US aggression in Viet Nam and calling for strengthened solidarity with the Vietnamese people.

The resolution said:

"The Japanese people's campaign for solidarity with the Vietnamese people is developing continually. In the midst of it, our gathering here can testify that the October 21 unified action has made a great leap.

"... At present, the movement against US aggression in Viet Nam and for support to the Vietnamese people is spreading among the masses, and has won the sympathy and support of the overwhelming majority of public opinion."

The resolution went on:

"The US Government, though in ever tighter straits, still rejects the principles and programs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and continues to perpetrate barbarous murders in Viet Nam. The movement against the Viet Nam aggression remains the centre of the drive of the anti-imperialist democratic forces of the whole world.

We cannot tolerate this unlawful and irrational aggressive act being extended for a moment."

The resolution stressed:

"For the Japanese people, to demonstrate solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle, there is no other way than to further step up the effort for 'immediate, unconditional and complete return of Okinawa, and abrogation of the Security Treaty.'

"We who rose up in this October 21 unified action for peace, independence and democracy of Japan hereby proclaim our determination to push up the campaign for support to, and solidarity with, the Vietnamese people."

The Vietnamese People's Struggle Has Become a Common Struggle of the World Working Class

— WTFU Resolution —

"THE struggle of the Vietnamese people has greatly contributed to the common struggle of the world working class and people against US-led imperialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress," said the resolution passed by the 7th Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions held in Budapest to support the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

After warmly hailing the big successes won by the Vietnamese people, the resolution stressed:

"The Congress unanimously notes that the struggle of the Vietnamese people has become a common struggle of the working class and trade-union movement of the world. Fighting for the final victory of the Vietnamese people is now an obligation, a pressing internationalist duty of all the workers and the workers' movement in the world

"The Congress unanimously decides to launch a campaign among the workers and workers' movement in the world from now to December 20, 1969, for a rapid, complete and unconditional withdrawal by the US imperialists of their troops and those of the other foreign countries in their camp from South Viet Nam.

"The Congress appeals to the workers and trade union organisations in different countries:

"1- to actively participate in this campaign in the forms suitable to their own conditions such as meetings, demonstrations, strikes, refusal to transport weapons and other war materials of the US and other countries in the US camp to South Viet Nam, collections of money, medicaments, transport means, school implements, clothes, etc. to assist the Vietnamese people;

"2- to make 20th of December, 1969 — the 9th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation — an occasion to show the strength of our international solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people. On December 20, we shall hold large meetings and demonstrations and token strikes in capitalist countries, especially in the countries whose governments are supporting the US in carrying out its war of aggression, to demand the US imperialists to pull completely, rapidly and unconditionally their troops out of South Viet Nam;

"3- to display our solidarity with, and warm support for, the campaign since October 15, 1969 of the American youths, students and people against the aggressive war in Viet Nam;

"4- to closely co-ordinate actions with the movement of solidarity with Viet Nam of the youths and students in different countries so as to turn trade unions into the mainstay of the world peoples' movement of solidarity with Viet Nam which is vigorously gaining ground."

World-Wide Response to VIET NAM MORATORIUM DAY

THE Viet Nam Moratorium Day kept by wide cross-sections of the American people against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam has enlisted sympathy and strong support from the people in many countries.

● The **Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam** has launched an appeal to the world peoples to support the American people's drive against the Viet Nam war of aggression and observe November 15 as international day of support to the "Fall Offensive" of the American people. The slogan is "Withdraw unconditionally all US troops from Viet Nam."

● The Federal Council of **Czechoslovak** Children's and Youth Organizations has sent a telegram to the Viet Nam Moratorium Committee expressing support for the American people's demand for an end to the US war in Viet Nam and the total withdrawal of US and vassal troops from South Viet Nam.

● Carrying aloft posters reading "Peace Now in Viet Nam", "American Imperialism, Out of Viet Nam" and "Why Should More Die in Viet Nam?", and wearing black mourning armbands, some 200 demonstrators, mostly young Americans living in **Britain**, staged on October 15 a continuous moving picket outside the US Embassy in London to support the anti-Viet Nam war demonstrations taking place throughout the United States.

During the day there was a stream of people bringing protest letters to the US Embassy. Following six Labour Members of Parliament with a letter signed by 60 MPs, a deputation from the Executive Committee of the British Communist Party handed in a letter signed by General Secretary John Gollan, declaring that the only way to end the war in Viet Nam is by complete and unconditional withdrawal of all American military forces so that the people of Viet Nam are free to determine their future without foreign interference.

Other protesters included the Young Communist League, the British Peace Committee, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the British Council for Peace in Viet Nam, the London Committee for Women's Peace Councils and others.

● 1,500 **French** youth attended a meeting held in "La Mutualité" by the French Communist Youth Movement in support of the Viet Nam Moratorium Day.

An estimated 300 French students also organized on the same day a "meeting in support of the Vietnamese people."

On the Moratorium Day, hundreds of Frenchmen and Frenchwomen gathered in front of the American Embassy in Paris and handed in petitions demanding peace in Viet Nam.

● American students and women in **Italy** organized in front of the US Embassy in Rome a collection of signatures to a petition for a halt to the US war.

● In **Austria**, about 60 Americans mostly students and professors of Stanford University came to the US Embassy in Vienna to hand in a similar request.

● On the morning of the Moratorium Day, some 1,000 **Copenhagen** University students held a school strike as a token of support for the American people's anti-war moratorium. They also held discussions on the US aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Danish deputies signed a statement in sympathy with the American people's movement for an end to the Viet Nam war.

● In **Auckland** (New Zealand) more than 500 students staged a protest parade through the streets against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam. They carried 20 fellow students on stretchers covered with red-painted sheets to signify the 20 New Zealand soldiers officially reported killed so far in the Viet Nam war. The action was timed to coincide with those in the US.

● In **Canada**, some 50 people on Moratorium Day marched past the US Embassy carrying signs against the Viet Nam war and declaring support for the Americans' anti-war demonstrations.

● In **Colombia**, about 100 American citizens demonstrated in front of the US Embassy in Bogota, urging total pull-out of US troops from South Viet Nam.

● In **Ethiopia**, nearly 2,000 students of the Haile Selassie University held a meeting on October 15 to protest against the US aggression in Viet Nam. The participants carried flags of the DRVN and portraits of President Ho Chi Minh and streamers with the inscription "Yankees, Stop the Genocide!"

● In **Guiana**, the People's Progressive Party declared its solidarity with the American people's movement for an end to the US dirty war in Viet Nam. In a statement issued in this connection, the Party said: "We warmly support the majority of the American citizens demanding the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam. The Americans have lost not only numerous sons in this war, but also billions of dollars which must have been used to slove the urgent problems of the United States herself."

● *UPI* noted on October 16 that "the protest against the Viet Nam war reached around the world Wednesday" (Moratorium Day). Anti-war groups demonstrated in London, Copenhagen, Tokyo, Ankara, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Dublin, Bogota, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Montreal and the Hague, the agency added.

News from LAOS

PATRIOTIC NEUTRALIST FORCES' LEADER EXPOSES US DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN LAOS

IN an interview granted to *KPL (Pathet Lao)* Press Agency) correspondent, Khamsouk Keola, Chairman of the Alliance Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Neutralist Forces, fully rejected the denial by the US government of its involvement in Laos and gave the patriotic neutralists' view on this matter.

Asked about proofs of US intervention and aggression in Laos, Khamsouk Keola said:

"The cruel war of aggression conducted by the US in Laos has become so brazen and reckless that the US press has many times admitted that the US is waging in this country a real war involving over 12,000 American 'advisors'. It has also reported that the US air forces mount round-the-clock intensified bombings in Laos, heavily devastating the free zone. In fact, US aircraft monthly have flown from 12,000 to 15,000 sorties over Laos over the last months, reaching the highest level so far in the wars in Laos and Viet Nam.

"It has revealed that the current encroaching operations in the Plain of Jars — Xiengkhoang area — and in Lower Laos involve some 1,200 American 'green berets' and 5,000 Thai combat troops."

Replying to the question on the very aim of the US-puppets in smearing the Laotian Patriotic Front and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, Khamsouk Keola pointed out:

"The step-up of the US war in Laos to a very serious degree has not only drawn strong criticisms from world public opinion but also protest from the Americans including many people in political circles who rightly expressed their concern over the fact that the US military adventure in Laos might drive the US into 'another Viet Nam war.' Many US senators and newspapers have demanded a hot survey on the ever deeper 'involvement' of the US in Laos and asked for prompt measures to extricate the US out of a new peril caused by that 'involvement.'

"Plunged into utter political isolation and trouble at home and abroad, the US administration tried to deny facts and on the other hand instigated its Laotian stooges to provide a shield for it. That is why Prince Souvanna Phouma hurriedly went to the United States and other countries, and wherever he went he tried to distort the Laotian situation and levelled backneyed slanders at the LPF and the DRVN to screen his US bosses, while the Vientiane administration published a so-called 'White Book' for the same purpose.

"In his meetings with Nixon and at a press conference, Phouma asked for more US 'military aid' and 'air support.' This is a very dangerous and irresponsible move on the part of Prince Phouma, which the LPF and the Laotian people strongly condemn."

"The US brazen war intensification and Prince Souvanna Phouma's traitorous behaviour have themselves given the lie to the US-puppets' deception and slanders against the LPF and the DRVN," Khamsouk Keola stressed.

Asked about the Laotian Patriotic Neutralist Forces' position on the kept-up US war in Laos, Khamsouk Keola said:

"The position of the Laotian Patriotic Neutralist Forces on the settlement of the Laotian issue, has been made clear most recently in the October 8, 1969 statement of the Alliance Committee of the LPNF:

"Since the US has been carrying out intervention and aggression in Laos, it must end it in one way or another. The US must respect and scrupulously implement the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Vientiane reactionary administration must leave the path of betrayal to the country. First of all, the US and its stooges must stop at once their bombardments and encroaching raids against the free zone controlled by the patriotic forces, and pull out all their forces now illegally occupying various free areas.

"The LPNF are resolved to join hands with the Laotian Patriotic Front and the entire Laotian people and take all necessary and appropriate measures to fight back the enemy in self-defence. The legitimate struggle of the Laotian people, enjoying great sympathy and support from the world's peoples including the American people, is bound to win complete success."

(Continued from page 2)

about the deaths and destruction they had caused.

Despite all that, they are now decently fed and clad by us and provided with other necessities such as cigarettes and soap. They are allowed to receive letters and parcels from their families. As war criminals, they cannot expect a better treatment.

Some of them had, on touching down, a bone or two shattered to pieces in their arms or legs. To simplify things, these injured limbs could very well be amputated. But contrary to their fear, young girl guerillas who captured them gave them first-aid attention and immediately carried them — heavy loads for such frail lasses — under showers of bombs to the next hospital where our surgeons saw to their fractures in an efficient way. Imagine what sense of humanity, what patience and what skill on the part of our doctors when the alert provoked by the same pirates was still resounding!

US Air Pirates Would Have Deserved Another Fate

It has always been in our millenary tradition to give humane treatment to the defenceless enemy fallen into our hands. Thus, since the 13th century, after defeating the Mongol invasion — the then terror of the world — the Tran kings released hundreds of thousands of POWs. Two centuries later, the great strategist Nguyen Trai — whose warcries were "match the enemy's blind cruelty with the greatest loyalty!" and "overcome the adverse brutal force by generous humanity!" — freed after our remarkable victory over the Mings, thousands of enemy troops with their generals and gave them besides foodstuffs, over five hundred boats and thousands of horses for their journey home.

In our times, brilliantly guided by our much mourned-for, great leader Ho Chi Minh, we many times set free captured Japanese and Frenchmen after feeding them as long as necessary, even to the detriment of our stomachs, for we had pretty much food to spare. After the Dien Bien Phu victory, we sent over to the opposite side tens of thousands of officers and men, including General de Castries and his staff. None of these freed after our remarkable victory over the Mings, thousands of enemy troops with their generals and gave them besides foodstuffs, over five hundred boats and thousands of horses for their journey home.

In our times, brilliantly guided by our much mourned-for, great leader Ho Chi Minh, we many times set free captured Japanese and Frenchmen after feeding them as long as necessary, even to the detriment of our stomachs, for we had pretty much food to spare. After the Dien Bien Phu victory, we sent over to the opposite side tens of thousands of officers and men, including General de Castries and his staff. None of these people, belonging at least to 27 nationalities, and scattered now to every part of the world, could say in all conscience that they had been manhandled by us during their captivity.

It is not the first time that we have had to deal with American pilots. Before our great August Revolution, some of them made forced landing in our guerilla-controlled areas. They were protected at our own risks against the French and Japanese and fed in the jungle — this speaks volumes, for at that time President Ho Chi Minh himself ate only boiled maize and grilled sesame. We even had to surmount great difficulties to help them cross the spy-infested borderland.

These pilots were Allies but we were prompted first by the same humanitarianism as we are now towards the American pilots captured in the air war against North Viet Nam. Nixon only makes himself a laughing stock by shedding crocodile tears over American pilots detained by us, the more so since it is he and his ilk who have landed them in such a situation. Shou'd he really think of the welfare of these young Americans and the happiness of their families, he would only withdraw completely, unconditionally and immediately all US and "Allied" troops from Viet Nam and put an end to US neo-colonialist enterprise.

General VO NGUYEN GIAP...

(Continued from page 5)

support and such considerable help from the fraternal socialist countries and progressive mankind.

President Ho Chi Minh called on our people to be clearly aware of their duty and honour, and be resolved to fight on until victory, in the interest of the Vietnamese nation and for the sake of their internationalist duty. The Vietnamese people are determined to translate into deeds President Ho Chi Minh's words: "*So long as a single aggressor remains on our soil, we must fight on to sweep him away.*"

The Vietnamese people have won great successes; they will certainly fight on until final victory. The victory of the resistance to North American aggression will bring the Vietnamese people independence, freedom and national reunification; at the same time it will bear out a great truth: **in our times, any nation, even one not very extensive in area and not very numerous in population, any nation which is resolved to stand up, unite, and fight for independence and freedom, following a correct line, is bound to triumph over all aggressors, be they the Yankee imperialists.**

The revolutionary struggle of the heroic Cuban people is also substantiating this truth.

Socialist Cuba is standing firm in the western hemisphere: this fact alone is a great encouragement and support for us.

PLAF destroyers of armoured cars in action

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all our suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

Little Thu

— Anecdote from South Viet Nam —

IN the communication trench, Thu opened wide her eyes to watch the movement of a section of puppet militiamen. Suddenly she jumped for joy:

"How lucky!" she said to her group leader, while following with her eyes every step of the enemy soldiers. "They all are making for where my three mines are laid."

Tran Thi Thu, a fourteen years old lass, was admitted in a guerilla unit a year ago. Her formerly round beautiful, piercing eyes have been ruined by chemical products and her sight is very weak. Her hatred for the American aggressors and their lackeys induced her to apply for membership of a guerilla unit and her wish was at last granted despite her young age. Because her bad eyesight precluded the use of firearm she was given mines and booby traps to fight with. In her first battle she killed seven Yankees and two puppet soldiers and was awarded the "Valiant Fighter against the Yanks" title.

Once puppet militiamen came into her "mine field." She watched each of their steps with impatience and excitement. Then she heard a deafening noise and saw bits of earth fly.

"Well done! But why one explosion only? Are the other two mines dud?" she asked herself.

Six puppet soldiers were seen on the spot, their blood-stained mangled bodies were sprawling on the ground. The survivors ran for dear life, leaving behind the corpses and weapons of their mates; cautiously they avoided the usual paths (where the two other mines had been planted by Thu) jumped over hedges and crossed the fields as fast as their legs could carry them.

Thu got out of her trench, rushed upon a Garant lying beneath a dead soldier. The body was so heavy that despite all her efforts, she could not have succeeded in pulling it out shouldn't three fellow guerillas come to her aid. Of the six arms seized, Thu took the newest for her own use after getting permission from her mates.

But soon she felt sad at the thought that she could not make a proper use of it owing to her dim sight.

The enemy came back, and furiously set fire to the hamlet. Braving all danger, she left her comrades without saying a word, dashed toward her house and cried at the top of her voice: "The bandits have set fire to our houses!" She came in just when her own hut caught fire. Soon she went out with a blazing bamboo pipe in one hand, but was nabbed by the enemy.

"You can kill me," she shouted. "I've done my duty!"

The puppet troops beat her black and blue; they asked her what the pipe contained but did not dare touch it. After a while, Tran Thi Thu said: "Well, there is a picture of Uncle Ho inside. Mind you, never try to touch it with your dirty and shameful hands."

"How did you manage to get it?"

"Ask nothing more. All the children in the country have got Uncle Ho's portrait. I forbid you even to mention his name!"

"Can't you tell us:"

"No, one thousand times no."

"Throw the photo into the flames" shouted the puppet in command.

But none of his men had time to do that. The guerillas already opened fire, mowing some of them. The remainder took to their heels.

The villagers rushed to the scene and picked up little Thu. An old guerilla brandished a fire-arm just taken from the enemy and said, laughing, "They've been outdone by Thu. My dear little one, you deserve to be called Uncle Ho's good niece."

Tran Thi Thu withdrew from the pipe Uncle Ho's photo, given her by the guerilla chief when she was cited a "Valiant Fighter against the Yanks".

The first days, she went about the hamlet to show it to her co-villagers. Her mother told her to hang it on the wall for everyone to see but she refused, fearing it would be spoiled for want of a frame she would not get, and would not be salvaged in time in case the enemy turned up. So it was carefully rolled and put in that bamboo pipe. Since then the puppet troops had come a dozen times to ransack the hamlet, but could not lay hand on the precious thing.

It passed from hand to hand. With tears in his eyes, someone spoke out the common feeling of the local people, "So long as mountains and rivers exist in Tay Ninh province, the portrait of beloved Uncle Ho will be treasured by us."

A PLAF unit taking a rest after a drill

MILITARY OPERATIONS

First Half of October

1,800 Enemy Casualties by PLAF Regional Troops and Guerillas:

- ⊙ *710 South of DMZ.*
- ⊙ *360 between Da Nang and Phan Thiet.*
- ⊙ *500 in 4 Provinces in the Mekong Delta, etc.*

COMBINING their actions with PLAF regular units, regional troops and guerillas ceaselessly harassed and in many cases wiped out enemy forces. These activities wrought havoc on the enemy and exposed his weak points for the PLAF to deliver heavy blows in due time.

That is why, in the first half of October, a relatively calm period, enemy losses remained heavy. In some areas of the provinces of Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Binh Thuan, Tay Ninh and the Mekong delta, at least 1,800 adverse casualties were reported by *GPA*.

South of the DMZ, at the 17th parallel, in **Quang Tri** province, between Oct. 1 and 10, regional forces and guerillas fought about twenty battles in which they put out of action 460 enemy troops, downed 12 aircraft, destroyed 20 military vehicles and sank 2 vessels on the Cua Viet river. On Oct. 11, the PLAF shelling of Hill 241 near **Tan Lam** knocked out 70 men of puppet Regiment 2 and burnt a military depot and 6 vehicles. The same day, 75 men of a puppet militia company and a military truck were put out of action near **Gio Linh**.

In **Que Son** and **Hoi An**, Southeast of Da Nang (Quang Nam province) in **Son Tinh** and **Mo Duc** (Quang Ngai province) and **Phu Cat** (Binh Dinh province), the guerillas took a toll of 260 adverse troops from Oct. 1 to 8.

In **Binh Thuan** province, 150km east-northeast of Saigon, an enemy platoon and about one hundred soldiers were wiped out between Oct. 3 and 8.

Northwest of Saigon, in **Tay Ninh** province, between Oct. 5 and 14, regional troops disabled 150 adverse soldiers and wrecked 3 tanks.

In the 4 provinces in the **Mekong Delta** nearly 500 puppet troops were put out of action and 3 helicopters downed.

In **My Tho** province, between Oct. 12 and 18, the enemy suffered 250 casualties, including a major and a captain, and 3 105mm cannons destroyed.

In the Western High Plateaux, on Oct. 15 and 16, PLAF artillery pounded **Dakto** airfield, destroying a military supply depot and 2 cannons. On Oct. 16, near Dakto, the CP of puppet Regiment 42 at **Tan Canh** was shelled: 3 buildings destroyed and 30 soldiers killed.

On Oct. 10, at Plei M'rong, 24km northwest of Pleiku, two US units, pursued by the guerillas, lost 100 men and 11 military vehicles.